

Application No.: 10/795,944

Docket No.: 30811/40225

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) A method of treating wastewater, ~~such as raw sewage, effluent and slurry,~~ containing biologically-active cellular units, comprising:

(a) directing the wastewater to an electroporating station;

(b) electroporating the wastewater for destroying at least most of the cellular units contained therein; and

said ~~step~~ (b) causing disruption of the cellular units, allowing for the release of matter; and

(c) directing the released matter to a bioreactor for performing biological digestion thereon whereby the matter is used as food.

15. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein ~~said step~~ (c) comprises delivering the released matter to at least one of: an aerobic, anoxic, facultative, or anaerobic bioreactor.

16. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14, further comprising, before ~~said step~~ (a):

(d) transporting wastewater from a primary treatment apparatus to at least one bioreactor of a secondary treatment apparatus; and

(e) said ~~step~~ (c) comprising recycling the released matter back to said at least one bioreactor of ~~said step~~ (d).

17. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein ~~said step~~ (c) comprises delivering the destroyed cellular units of ~~said step~~ (b) to one of: an aerobic, anoxic, facultative, or anaerobic bioreactor.

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18. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein said secondary treatment apparatus further comprises a sludge dewatering apparatus; said ~~step~~ (c) further comprising:

(f) delivering the destroyed cellular units of ~~said step~~ (b) to another bioreactor downstream from said at least one bioreactor and upstream of said sludge dewatering apparatus.

19. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein ~~said step~~ (c) comprises delivering the destroyed cellular units of ~~said step~~ (b) to one of: an aerobic, anoxic, facultative, or anaerobic bioreactor.

20. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14, further comprising, before said ~~step~~ (a):

(f) transporting wastewater from a primary treatment apparatus to a secondary treatment apparatus;

said secondary treatment apparatus comprising a sludge dewatering apparatus; said ~~step~~ (c) comprising delivering the destroyed cellular units of ~~said step~~ (b) to a bioreactor upstream of said sludge dewatering apparatus.

21. (Previously presented) A method of treating wastewater, ~~such as raw sewage, effluent, slurry,~~ containing biologically-active cellular units, comprising:

(a) delivering said wastewater to an electroporation apparatus;

(b) electroporating said wastewater in said electroporation apparatus by exposing said wastewater to a pulsed electric field to disrupt said cellular units and to release matter; and

(c) delivering said matter to at least one one bioreactor for reaction therewith;

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said ~~step~~ (c) comprising supplying said matter as food for said at least one bioreactor.

22. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein ~~said step~~ (c) comprises delivering said matter to at least one of: an aerobic, anoxic, facultative, or anaerobic bioreactor.

23. (Previously presented) A method of treating wastewater, ~~such as raw sewage, effluent, slurry,~~ containing biologically-active cellular units, comprising:

(a) delivering said wastewater to an electroporation apparatus;

(b) electroporating said wastewater in said electroporation apparatus by exposing said wastewater to a pulsed electric field to disrupt said cellular units and to release organic matter; and

(c) supplying said released organic matter as food to a means for biologically digesting organic matter.

24. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein ~~said step~~ (c) comprises delivering the released organic matter to at least one of: an aerobic, anoxic, facultative, or anaerobic bioreactor.

25. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 23, further comprising, before ~~said step~~ (a):

(d) transporting wastewater from a primary treatment apparatus to at least one bioreactor of a secondary treatment apparatus; and

(e) said ~~step~~ (c) comprising recycling the released matter back to said at least one bioreactor of ~~said step~~ (d).

26. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein ~~said step~~ (e) comprises delivering the disrupted cellular units of ~~said step~~ (b) to one of: an aerobic, anoxic, facultative, or anaerobic bioreactor.

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27. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the wastewater includes raw sewage, effluent or slurry.

28. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the wastewater includes raw sewage, effluent or slurry.

29. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the wastewater includes raw sewage, effluent or slurry.